This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended).

An electro-chemical method for cleaning the surfaces of metallic work pieces, in particular the surfaces in the region of welded seams, by using an electrode, wherein an insulating layer is arranged between the electrode and the work piece, and a voltage is applied between the work piece and the electrode and the insulating layer is impregnated with an electrolyte, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein during the cleaning procedure, the electrode is set into vibrations with frequencies preferably in the ultrasonic range.

Claim 2 (currently amended).

A cleaning method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the electrode is set into vibrations in the frequency range of more than 20 kHz, preferably between 100 kHz and 2 MHz.

Claim 3 (currently amended).

A cleaning method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the vibration amplitude is changed.

Claim 4 (currently amended).

An electrode (1) for electro-chemically cleaning the surfaces of metallic work pieces (2), in particular the surfaces in the region of welded seams, with a connecting terminal (4) for connection to an electric voltage source (5) and an insulating layer (7) to be impregnated with an electrolyte (8), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a means (9) for generating a vibration is provided.

Claim 5 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the vibration generating means (9) is formed by an ultrasonics generator.

Claim 6 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the vibration generating means (9) is arranged in the electrode (1).

Claim 7 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the vibration generating means (9) forms part of the electrode (1).

Claim 8 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the vibration generating means (9) is fastened to the electrode (1).

Claim 9 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a handle (12) is provided which is mounted in a vibration-damping manner or which is provided with a vibration-damping layer (13).

Claim 10 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a layer (11) of elastic material is provided.

Claim 11 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a layer of carbon is provided.

Claim 12 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 11~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the insulating layer (7) is formed of a fabric, preferably a fiberglass fabric.

Claim 13 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 11~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the insulating layer (7) is formed of nodules (14) or the like of plastics.

Claim 14 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 4 ~~to 13~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a line (15) for delivering the electrolyte (8) is provided.

Claim 15 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 10 ~~to 14~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the feed line (15) contains a means for metering the electrolyte (8).

Claim 16 (currently amended).

A cleaning electrode according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 10 ~~to 15~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a line for delivering additional components to the electrolyte (8) is provided.